

WASHINGTON STAR

Approved For Release 2000/06/30 : CIA-RDP75-00001R000300500022-6

Harold M. McClelland, CIA Official, 72, Dies

CPYRGHT

Retired Maj. Gen. Harold M. McClelland, 72, director of communications at the Central Intelligence Agency for the last 14 years, died yesterday in his sleep at his home at 3315 Wisconsin Ave. NW.

A retired Air Force officer who had invented many radar and other electronic devices, McClelland had recently undergone major surgery, but was at his desk at the CIA on Thursday.

He originally had been called to the agency in 1951 to direct the development and management of its vital communications system.

Native of Iowa

McClelland was born in Tiffin, Iowa. He was a 1916 honor graduate of Kansas State University. From 1917 to 1951, he was an officer in the Army and the Air Force, where he was rated as a command pilot.

During his career in the Air Force, he specialized in radio, and later radar, communications.

In the early 1940s, he was in charge of all phases of Army Air Corps communications, and had developed the largest communications system in the world.

McClelland invented many radar and other electronic devices. He applied radar to antisubmarine warfare and directed organization of the first electronics proving grounds near Elgin Field, Fla. His airborne radar section was considered the first "blind-bombing" radar.

In 1949, McClelland was appointed as the first director of the Communications-Electronics Office of the Defense Department. He also was named chairman of the Joint Communications Electronics Committee, made up of the communications chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Decorated for Service

For his military service he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit,



GEN. HAROLD M.
McCLELLAND

and Commander, Order of the British Empire.

As director of communications at CIA, McClelland had been involved in the most important problems affecting national security.

According to W. F. Raborn, director of the CIA, the general "was a man admired by every one and a great leader who made a lasting contribution to the Central Intelligence Agency and to our country."

"Gen. McClelland's exceptional achievements have upheld the highest traditions of service to our nation and he has indeed been an outstanding public servant," said Allen W. Dulles, retired CIA director.

Services Tuesday

The general was a member of the Armed Forces Communications Association and the Cosmos Club, and a past member of the Institute of Radio Engineers, American Meteorological Society and the American Association for Advancement of Science.

He leaves his wife, Doris C., of the home; a son, Alan J., of Houston, Tex.; two sisters, Miss Vera McClelland and Mrs. Joseph James, both of Norfolk, Va., and a brother, Herbert, of Wichita, Kans.

Graveside services will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Arlington Cemetery.

The family requests that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to the Heart or Cancer societies.